

ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Monthly Report -- Hong Kong Bureau

FROM:

Chief, Operations Group

EXTENSION

NO.

DATE

December 1988

TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)

DATE

RECEIVED

FORWARDED

OFFICER'S INITIALS

COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)

1.

A C/Ops

25 JAN 1989

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C/E&PS

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DD/FBIS

25 Jan

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27 Jan

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21

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Exec. Reg.

**FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
HONG KONG BUREAU**

**FBIS-3600--89
4 January 1989**

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Foreign Broadcast Information Service
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
FROM : Chief, Hong Kong Bureau
SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Hong Kong Bureau--December 1988

I. GENERAL

The Bureau has continued to grapple with the loss of Beijing XINHUA Domestic Service at Okinawa Bureau last month, holding one meeting and several telephone conversations with the XINHUA marketing agent in Hong Kong, NCN Limited. During the meeting with NCN we explored the possibility of obtaining a subscription to the XINHUA Regional Service off the Indian Ocean Intelsat. NCN agreed to forward this request to Beijing, and Beijing has agreed to allow FBIS to subscribe to the service.

NCN also agreed to forward our request for a subscription to the XINHUA Provincial Service, which is the service FBIS has sourced as the Domestic Service in the past. Beijing also responded favorably to this request, agreeing "in principle" to sell the service to FBIS. Beijing is investigating the best technical route to use to get the service to Hong Kong, from where it will most likely be transmitted by Cable and Wireless to the Indian Ocean Intelsat and then beamed down to Okinawa and captured by the recently obtained EPIC dish.

NCN expects the last hurdles for subscriptions to both of these services to be overcome in the next few weeks.

II. OPERATIONS

A. Monitorial/Editorial

1. The Chinese Unit and Editorial staff quickly changed gears this month to file more priority materials from monitored Chinese-language press agencies in hopes of compensating for Okinawa's

loss of XINHUA Domestic Service. The current ad hoc arrangement is not without its occasional hiccup, but the Bureau does not feel that China coverage has suffered too severely.

2. A comparison of the XINHUA Regional Service provided by NCN Limited against the XINHUA services Hong Kong and Okinawa receives revealed that the Regional Service and Okinawa's Local Service are identical, but that the Hong Kong Service the Bureau monitors is entirely different. The Hong Kong Service primarily focuses on foreign affairs issues while the Regional/Local Service centers on domestic issues.

3. Hong Kong Asia Television Limited scooped the Chinese media this month in airing the first report of a change in the Tibetan party leadership. ATV, however, did not report the name of the new first secretary; that was reported the following day by AFP. The first Chinese report was broadcast four days later by Guiyang Guizhou Provincial Service.

B. Lateral Services

1. At the request of the Defense Liaison Office, the Bureau processed on a priority basis a Hong Kong HSIN WAN PAO article on PRC policy toward the construction of aircraft carriers.

2. In response to a request from the American Consulate in Guangzhou, the Bureau has begun filing electronically all copy that meets Guangzhou's lateral service requirements. The Bureau had been sending this material in a twice-weekly pouch because the file previously was too much for Guangzhou's communications system.

3. The value of the Bureau's translations to local consumers became evident this month when a decision, with the Consulate's blessing, was made to stop providing the Hong Kong Foreign Correspondents Club (FCC) with copies of our translations. This practice dates back to the Cultural Revolution when Consulate officers used the Bureau's copy in trade for reports on the correspondents' travels in China. The decision was triggered by the Bureau's operational need for another copy of the outgoing file because of the closer coordination with Okinawa. The day after the decision was implemented, the first screams of agony were heard. The owner of the FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW wrote the Bureau Chief and mentioned the issue to the Consul General. The decision was reassessed with the Consulate agreeing to receive one less copy of the Bureau's output, thus freeing an extra copy for the FCC.

C. Technical

1. The Hong Kong Telephone Company switched the T1 line to a parallel line after monitoring the new line for a couple of months to determine its reliability. The phone company will monitor the old line to find out the cause of several Megamux problems in the past.

III. ADMINISTRATION

The Bureau continues to await approval of a 4.95-percent across-the-board pay increase request for local employees sent to Headquarters in October. The increase is retroactive to September. The Consulate implemented the increase at the end of October.

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IV. VISITS

1. Okinawa Bureau Deputy Chief [] visited the Bureau on the 1st for an update on the discussions with XINHUA.

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2. Okinawa Bureau Chief [] visited the Bureau on the 27th. She toured the office and was briefed on the latest XINHUA developments.

V. COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

1. At a Bureau gathering on the 30th, the Chief presented a QSI to Philippine Unit Chief [] in recognition of her outstanding performance.

2. On the 15th, the American and British staff hosted a Bureau Christmas party. All employees were able to savor the various Christmas specialties cooked by the staffers and their spouses.

3. Bureau thespians Junior Editor [] and Associate Editor [] participated in the Christmas production of the play "Babes in the Magic Woods."

4. Rounding off Christmas, Deputy Chief [] donned Santa's work clothes to the delight of the children who attended the Consulate Christmas party. [] played Christmas carols on the piano at the Consulate children's and staff parties.

[]
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau